

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 HA-05 EUR-12
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OMB-01 DODE-00 SP-02 /075 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:WLSWING:PCS
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
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P:GEMOOSE
NSC:TTHORNTON
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-----070912 032343Z /62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141264

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG, NI, CU, UR

SUBJECT: US INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA

REF: LAGOS 6852

1. AS WE READ REFTEL, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IT BE MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO YOUR NIGERIAN INTERLOCUTORS THAT IN OUR SHABAN ACTIONS, BOTH CONCLUDED AND CONTEMPLATED, WE HAVE NEVER HAD ANY THOUGHT OF ALIGNING OURSELVES WITH WHATEVER LARGER DESIGNS THE FRENCH, OR OTHERS, MIGHT HAVE IN RESPECT OF A MORE AMBITIOUS AND PERMANENT PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTIONIST EMERGENCY FORCE OR MUTUAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT.

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2. ON THE CONTRARY, THE US ROLE IN THE SHABA CRISIS HAS BEEN LIMITED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CAREFULLY LIMITED. OUR INITIAL AIRLIFT WAS TO SUPPORT AN ESSENTIALLY HUMANITARIAN UNDERTAKING AND THE FORTHCOMING AIRLIFT IS DESIGNED TO GET THE FRENCH FORCES OUT AS QUICKLY AS FEASIBLE UNDER THE SECURITY CIRCUMSTANCE PREVAILING THERE, AND TO SEE SECURITY MAINTAINED IN SHABA BY

AFRICAN MEANS AND RESOURCES. WE BELIEVE SUCH ACTION IS JUSTIFIED TO MAINTAIN ZAIRE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND TO PROTECT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE ZAIRIAN ECONOMY.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE EXPECT TO TAKE A VERY FIRM LINE WITH THE FRENCH AT THE JUNE 5 PARIS MEETING. OUR OWN TERMS OF REFERENCE DO NOT EXTEND BEYOND SHABA AS REGARDS SECURITY. WHILE THE FRENCH WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY WISH TO RAISE BROADER SECURITY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF A MORE ELABORATE, LONGER RANGE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT FOR AT LEAST THE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN STATES, WE WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO ANY SERIOUS DISCUSSION ON THESE MATTERS OR TO MAKE ANY KIND OF COMMITMENTS.

4. THEREFORE, IF YOU THINK THAT THERE IS ANY DOUBT AT ALL IN THE MINDS OF GARBA, DEDE OR FAFOWARA, YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THEM AND UNDERSCORE THE FOREGOING POINTS.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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